

and notwithstanding any limitation on the expenditure or obligation of appropriated amounts, the Secretary may use available funds appropriated to or for the use of the Department of Defense that are not otherwise obligated or expended to carry out this section.

SEC. 5. DEPLOYMENT OF ADDITIONAL TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT.

The Secretary of Defense shall work with telecommunications providers to facilitate the deployment of additional telephones for use in calling the United States under this Act as quickly as practicable, consistent with the availability of resources. Consistent with the timely provision of telecommunications benefits under this Act, the Secretary should carry out this section and section 4 in a manner that allows for competition in the provision of such benefits.

SEC. 6. NO COMPROMISE OF MILITARY MISSION.

The Secretary of Defense shall not take any action under this Act that would compromise the military objectives or mission of the Department of Defense.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Wednesday, April 2, 2003, at 10 a.m. in Room 485 of the Hart Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing on S. 556, a bill to Reauthorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Wednesday, April 9, 2003, at 10 a.m. in Room 485 of the Hart Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing on S. 285, to authorize the integration and consolidation of alcohol and substance abuse programs and services provided by Indian tribal governments, and for other purposes; S. 558, a bill to Elevate the Director of the Indian Health Service to be Assistant Secretary for Indian Health, and for other purposes; and S. 555, to establish the Native American Health and Wellness Foundation, and for other purposes.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet on Tuesday, April 1 at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing to consider the nominations of: Ricky Dale James to be a Member of the Mississippi River Commission; Rear Admiral Nicholas A. Pahl, NOAA, to be a Member of the Mississippi River Commission; and from Richard W. Moore, nominated to be Inspector General of the Tennessee Val-

ley Authority; and other pending nominations.

The meeting will be held in SD 406.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session on Tuesday, April 1, 2003, at 10 a.m., to hear testimony on Taxpayer Alert: Choosing a Paid Preparer and the Pitfalls of Charitable Car Donations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session on Tuesday, April 1, 2003, at 12 p.m., to hear testimony on the Nominations of Mark Van Dyke Holmes, to be Judge of the United States Tax Court; Diane L. Kroupa, to be Judge of the United States Tax Court; Robert Allen Wherry, Jr., to be Judge of the United States Tax Court; and Harry A. Haines to be Judge of the U.S. Tax Court.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 1, 2003, at 9:30 a.m., to hold a hearing on NATO.

Witnesses

Panel 1: "A View From Brussels." The Honorable Nicholas R. Burns, U.S. Permanent Representative to North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Brussels, Belgium.

9:45: Business Meeting to ratify the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

Panel 2: "New Members & A Changing Alliance." Dr. Ronald D. Asmus, Senior Transatlantic Fellow, German Marshall Fund, Washington, DC;

Mr. Bruce Jackson, President, Project on Transitional Democracies, Washington, DC.

Full committee open: Senator LUGAR will preside, March 31, 2003.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 1, 2003, at 9:45 a.m., to hold a business meeting to ratify the "Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management" and on the "Safety of Radioactive Waste Management," T. Doc. 106-48.

The Committee will consider and vote on the following agenda item:

Treaty: Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management, and

on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, T. Doc. 106-48.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a judicial nominations hearing on Tuesday, April 1, 2003, at 10 a.m., in the Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

Panel I: The Honorable Bob Graham; The Honorable Bill Nelson; The Honorable Mary Landrieu; The Honorable Bill Frist.

Panel II: Carolyn B. Kuhl, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Panel III: Cecilia M. Altonaga, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Florida;

Patricia Head Minaldi, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 1, 2003 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a hearing on Intelligence Matters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Armed Services Committee be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 1, 2003, at 9:00 a.m., in open session to continue to receive testimony on the impacts of environmental laws on readiness and the related administration legislative proposal in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2004.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Seapower of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 1, 2003, at 2:30 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on Navy and Marine Corps development priorities, procurement priorities, and Navy shipbuilding programs, in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2004 and the future years defense program.

Witnesses

Panel I: Admiral Vernon E. Clark, USN, Chief of Naval Operations; General Michael W. Hagee, USMC, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Panel II: The Honorable John J. Young, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition; Vice Admiral Michael G.

Mullen, USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Resources, Requirements, and Assessments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to allow my judicial nomination staffer, Cory Gardner, to be allowed to sit next to me on the floor along with a member of Senator HATCH's Judiciary staff, Ryan Higginboth.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following calendar items en bloc: Calendar No. 54 and Calendar No. 55.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bills by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 711) to amend title 37, United States Code, to alleviate delay in the payment of the Selected Reserve reenlistment bonus to members of Selected Reserve who are mobilized.

A bill (S. 712) to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide Survivor Benefit Plan annuities for surviving spouses of Reserves not eligible for retirement who die from a cause incurred or aggravated while on inactive-duty training.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise to talk about two bills—S. 711 and S. 712. I am honored to cosponsor these bills with Senators LINDSEY GRAHAM, CHAMBLISS, and ALLEN. There may be others that also wish to cosponsor these bills to support our service men and women.

S. 711 simply authorizes a Selective Re-enlistment Bonus, SRB, for National Guard and Reserve service members who would be eligible for SRB if they were in a nonmobilized or drilling status. However, when they are mobilized under a Presidential select Reserve callup and they re-enlist during that period, National guardsmen and reservists are prohibited from receiving SRB payments until after they get off active duty or mobilization status sometimes 1 to 2 years later.

S. 712 authorizes Survivor Benefit Plan, SBP, benefits to survivors of National Guard and Reserve service members who die while performing inactive duty training or weekend drills.

This legislation provides equity with active duty service members and is consistent with Defense Department regulations when National guardsmen and reservists are mobilized under a Presidential select Reserve callup.

However, since January there have been 13 Reserve Component deaths during weekend military training while their units were preparing for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom where families of National guardsmen and reservists did not receive the survivor benefit payments.

Furthermore, this legislation would cover those Reserve Component personnel who were serving in a drill status in the Pentagon during the attacks on the United States on 9/11.

This bill has the support of the Military Coalition, a consortium of nationally prominent uniformed services and veterans organizations representing more than 5.5 million members, the National Guard, and the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The roles and missions of the Reserve components has changed over the past several years, as the active duty force has evolved from the downsizing of our military forces during the last decade. I suspect that more changes will come as our national military strategy continues to evolve.

Instead, we have a military force that continues to rely more on the Reserve Components—men and women in the National Guard and Reserves—to go to war and to perform other critical military tasks abroad and at home. Many combat, combat support and other support missions are being carried on the backs of our active and Reserve Component forces—soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines.

For example, in March 2001, the Army National Guard 29th Infantry Division took command of the American peacekeeping mission in Bosnia. The significance of this deployment was enormous, considering that more than 75 percent of the 4,000 U.S. Army soldiers on the ground were Army Reserve and Guard soldiers from 17 states—not just headquarters' staff, but operational units as well.

More recently, in October 2002, Fighter/Attack Squadron 201's commanding officer received the call to mobilize that many Reserve Component commanding officers have recently received. With few exceptions over 100 Navy reservists mobilized with their 12 F/A-18 Hornet A-plus jets, and began work-ups with Carrier Air Wing 8 in Nevada and full day and night carrier qualifications at sea. The impact of this accomplishment cannot be overstated. It was the first time since the Korean War that an entire Naval Air Reserve Squadron has deployed aboard an aircraft carrier, and this time VFA-201's base was not Fort Worth, Texas but the flight deck of the USS Theodore Roosevelt, CVN-71.

The reports from the field are outstanding. VFA-201, like hundreds of other aviators during the first night of "shock and awe," flew their Hornets downtown to Baghdad. The pilots and their maintenance crews hailed from Texas, Arizona, California, New Mexico, Georgia, Florida, Nevada, Utah and Colorado. They are citizen soldiers. Thirteen of eighteen VFA-201 pilots are airline pilots who took a temporary leave of absence from their airline jobs.

They were similar to active duty sailors, yet they were different. Because they were reservists, every aviator has cruise experience, over 1,000 flight hours, and many have over 1,000 or 2,000 hours in the F/A-18. VFA-201's squadron aviators provided leadership

to the air wing in strike planning, flight execution and carrier operations. Their day and night time boarding rates and landing grades have exceeded all other Carrier Air Wing 8's squadrons.

While these are only two of the deployments that have taken place in recent years, they highlight the ever-increasing role of reservists in defending America's security interests around the world, and mark a radical departure from the past.

The figures are quite staggering when considered in total.

Today, nearly 60,000 reservists and National Guardsmen, including volunteers, are deployed under three Presidential callup orders for Bosnia, Kosovo, and Southwest Asia. For Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom over 275,000 men and women from the National Guard and the Reserves have been mobilized.

During each of the past 5 years, Reserve and National Guard service members have performed between 12 and 13.5 million duty days in support of the active force. These numbers are a direct contrast to 1990, when 1 million duty days were performed at a time when there were 25 percent more reservists.

Reservists also currently make up more than half of the airlift crews and 85 percent of the sealift personnel that are needed to move troops and equipment in either wartime or peacetime operations. In addition, reserve medical and construction battalions and other specialists are critical to a wide range of operations.

National Guard and Reserve service members are performing many vital tasks: from direct involvement in military operations to liberate Iraq in the air, on the ground, and on the sea; to guarding nuclear power plants in the United States; to providing support to the War on Terrorism through guarding, interrogating, and providing medical service to al-Qaida detainees; to rebuilding schools in hurricane-stricken Honduras and fighting fires in our western states; from overseeing civil affairs in Bosnia, to augmenting aircraft carriers short on active duty sailors with critical skilled enlisted ratings during at-sea exercises as well as periods of deployment.

I believe that the civilian and uniformed leadership of our Armed Forces and the Congress must recognize this involvement, and at a minimum provide equality in benefits for Reserve Component service members when they put on the uniform and perform their weekend drills or other critical training evolutions. Reservists, on duty, who resemble their active duty counterparts during training evolutions and are deployed at times around the world, should be treated equally when the administration and Congress provide for quality of life benefits.